

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 20.00 hours on Thursday 26 April 2018 held at Strangford Arms Hotel, Newtownards, Co Down.

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Patricia Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods.

PROCEEDINGS

Ross Millar, Chairman, opened the meeting and all welcomed the addition of Patricia Donnelly to the committee. It is hoped that her husband, Michael Donnelly, will also join.

Ross discussed the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. A person is available, and does not have to be a member of IWAI. He/she would be contracted out on a pay by hour basis, for mail shots, general correspondence, etc. Return and request mail answers. For accounts Mike Kingston estimated time to be spent is 100 hours per annum. He/she would not be required to attend committee meetings. LEB, if required, would pay membership fee for first year.

The proposed person would use the computer at their place of work, which was queried on the basis of data usage to an outside source. Frank Woods queried input of mail from outside sources, in that the secretary would need to be named as contact in IWN Magazine, using LEB contact numbers.

This matter was proposed by John Weir to proceed, seconded by Ross Millar, and approved. Ross is to advise committee of hourly payment rate or annual fee. Alan Cousins advised that treasurer's work mainly consists of settling accounts, such as for dinner/dance and functions. He will 'hold the fort' until a new treasurer is appointed.

Patricia Donnelly stated of the LEB responsibility to IWAI and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

As our present Webmaster, Joanne Magee, will soon be unavailable, it was considered that the expected secretary/treasurer could take this on. Ross proposes to look into the LEB website, and would like to have direct access. This would require approval from IWAI Executive.

Ross discussed how we could introduce new members and energise those existing. Rather than forward membership application forms, business type cards are suggested for hand outs, giving information such as 10% member's discounts. John Weir has made contact with a card producer in Newtownards.

Ross wondered if we can get new members before holding events. Mike asked do members turn out when asked, as there is no shortage of events being held by other branches. Tricia asked can we expand into events in Lough Erne and Fermanagh. John Weir talked about safety boats at events, and insurance cover, and Mike reminded us that as LEB are not listed on Calendar of Events notice must be given of intention to hold.

Further matters discussed;

An LEB stand at water based functions. Stand with members' tent is available. Fund raising event for overseas charity - creating goodwill and publicity. Invitation for non-members to join members boats for short cruise event, which could be held at either Ardhowen, Crom, or Quivvy. Do we join Erne Boat Rally and closer association with Belturbet Branch? Tricia suggested marina approach to encourage membership - spread the word!

Worth attending are the Crom Events on 7 July and 11 August. An offer has been made of a tour of Crom Castle. Alan Cousins viewed that people gathered at the Crom Events for music only. Lord Erne may co-operate with other LEB plans.

Mike Kingston reported on the medical condition of Jane Bell and Phyllis Navan, and it was approved that cards and flowers are sent to both. Mike also has contact with Rory Hoy of the Share Centre and the Lough Erne Safety Group, who have helped with charts and feedback. He is head of PSNI boats. Mike is to follow up.

Proposed Events - Crumlin Road Gaol/ Gobbins Visit /HMS Caroline/ Talks / Rathlin Island/ Lifeboat Station/ Fisheries Protection Vessel at Bangor/ Visit to Maritime Museum by train/ Rams Island. Also perhaps join in Newry and Lagan Branch activities.

Also noted from Ross was co-operation at the Moorings Restaurant with owner Charlie for possible functions.

Mike Kingston is to attend IWAI AGM and will report back if matters require.

The meeting ended at 21.20 hours. The next meeting is set for 24 May 2018, same venue and time of 1900 hours.

